

LEAD OFFICERS LIVELY CHASE

Negro Who Escaped Jail About
to Jump Into River When
Captured.

FISHBURNE IS INDICTED

Magnificent Showing for Mr.
Seward's Bible Class—Engineer
Favors Diversion Scheme.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
PETERSBURG, VA., Feb. 29.—The
electoral board of Petersburg, recently
appointed by Judge Mullen, today qual-
ified before the court, their terms be-
ginning to-morrow. Their first meeting
will probably be held to-morrow, when
organization will be effected.

Blackwell, a negro, committed to
jail in default of a fine and bond, es-
caped from Jail Bowles last evening
about 7 o'clock. Blackwell was allowed
by the jailer to go to the hydrant near
the jail for a pail of water, when he
availed himself of the opportunity to
escape. The custodian gave chase, but
under cover of darkness the negro eluded
his pursuer.

This morning, however,
Blackwell was recaptured near the union
station by Officer Peyton Stewart. Be-
fore submitting to be re-arrested the negro
offered a lively chase about the rail-
road yards, and when taken was at the
edge of the river ready for a swim to
safety.

Sheriff Lee, of Greensville County, ar-
rived in Petersburg today with Robert
Reed, a negro, who had been sentenced to
five years' imprisonment in the peniten-
tiary for the theft of a cow. Reed will
be kept in the Petersburg jail until called
for by the penitentiary officers.

PETERSBURG'S MORTALITY.
According to the report of Dr. Martin,
health officer of the city of Petersburg,
for the month ending February 29th,
there were 51 deaths in the city—36 col-
ored and 15 white. Twenty-two of these
number were above the age of fifty
years; 12 were under five years. The
rate of mortality for the whole popula-
tion is 23.92—white, 18; colored, 33.23.

Miss Emily Virginia Townes, of Peters-
burg, is the guest of Miss Sophie White,
of Franklin Street, Richmond.

Mr. L. E. Badger returned Saturday
from Florida, whither he went several
weeks since for the benefit of his health.

In the Police Court to-day the Rev.
James W. Fishburne, colored, charged
with felony, was given a preliminary
hearing and sent on to the grand jury.

FINE SHOWING.
As a result of the recent work on the
part of the members of the Seward
Men's Bible Class at the First Baptist
Church, the attendance yesterday morn-
ing was ninety-five. Mr. Seward has
been teaching the class for thirty years,
and its growth has been gradual. It
numbers seventy, and the members deter-
mined to increase it to one hundred.

The attendance at the Sunday school
of the First Baptist Church yesterday
was the largest for many months.

FAVORS THE WORK.
Brigadier-General MacKenzie, who has
succeeded General Gillespie as chief of
engineers, is decidedly favorable to the
plan of diverting the freshwater water in
the Appomattox River. He was formerly
assistant to General Gillespie, and in
that capacity became perfectly familiar
with the plans. Recent communications
from General MacKenzie show that he
is deeply interested in the work, and in-
dicate that Petersburg may depend on
him for co-operation in a matter of
such vital importance to the trade of
Petersburg.

RAPPAHANNOCK OPEN.
Smallpox Huts in Stafford Burned
as Patients Leave Them.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Feb. 29.—
The steamer Northumberland, of the
Weems Line, arrived here last night from
Baltimore, the river having become suffi-
ciently open to admit of its reaching the
wharf. This is the first steamer to ar-
rive here for about a month.

The smallpox situation in Stafford coun-
ty has considerably improved. The huts
in which the patients were confined near
Brooke, are being burned, as also the
clothing and other articles, and new huts
have been built. Quarantine will be lifted
this week, and it is not thought there
will be any further trouble. There are
but a few cases of smallpox in the county,
but of a mild form.

The fishing season is expected to open
on the Potomac River this week, as pre-
parations have been going on for some
time at the various shores. The first
seine will probably be dipped at Marl-
borough.

Rev. H. L. Walton, who has charge of
several Presbyterian churches in the
lower Northern Neck, has declined a call
to Louisiana.

Dogs attacked a flock of sheep in
Orange county, owned by Mr. B. P.
Wills a few nights ago, killing several
specimens and injuring others.

Mr. Emory Pickett and Miss Ella S.
Delano, of the Northern Neck, will be
married at Colham Park Baptist Church,
in Richmond county, on Wednesday even-
ing next.

CHATHAM STIRRED.
A Warm Fight Imminent Over
the Dispensary Question.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CHATHAM, VA., Feb. 29.—Nothing
pertaining to the whiskey question since
it was voted out in 1898 has so much stirred
the town citizens as the bill recently of-
fered by Senator Hays, providing for a
special election to be held as soon as pos-
sible to decide the issue. Petitions from
both factions have been circulated and
sent to the county, where they are being
presented to the board of supervisors. The
dispensary advocates claim to have a majority of the regis-
tered voters of the town, who are entitled
to a vote should the election be held be-
fore the end of six months, as several
are eligible on account of not having
paid their poll taxes; but this remains to
be seen.

A petition opposing the bill has been
circulated among the ladies, a number
of whom are affected with malaria. The
latter are being tightly drawn, and should
the bill become law the contest will be one
of the most bitter ever waged in the town.
The liquor advocates have announced that
they will have a ticket for municipal offi-
cers at the election in June.

Another petition was circulated by the

No Dessert
More Attractive

Why use gelatine and
sugar, when you can
use Jell-O?

Jell-O

produces better results in two minutes?
Everything in the package. Simply add hot
water and set to cool. Its perfection. A sur-
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